

After Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico, tens of thousands of families were forced to flee and sought refuge in Florida's 9th Congressional District. Without hesitation, Shasta worked with local stakeholders to provide shelter, food, and stability for those in need.

As the daughter of a Vietnam War veteran, Shasta worked especially hard to help veterans and young people applying to the five military academies. For five years, Shasta led the efforts for Florida's 9th Congressional District's Service Academy nominations and took great pride in selecting members for the military advisory board. Several students have been admitted under her tenure.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was instrumental in helping constituents, within and outside of the district, with unemployment and IRS issues. Because of her efforts, thousands of families received much-needed relief during a historically tumultuous time.

For this and more, we honor Ms. Shasta Shaffer.

FAREWELL TO MS. JODI B.  
MITCHELL

**HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2021*

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, today I honor a superb leader and Army liaison for her tireless commitment to the United States Army with over 14 years of service to the Nation serving in the Army Office of the Legislative Liaison, culminating as the Deputy Division Chief of the Army House Liaison Division. As Ms. Jodi Mitchell transitions to her next assignment as a Department of the Army Civilian, I believe it is fitting to recognize her dedication to fostering the relationship between the United States Army and this Chamber.

Ms. Mitchell's commitment to service and leader development enabled her to excel in numerous leadership positions throughout her time serving as a Department of the Army Civilian. Over the course of 14 years, while serving in many key legislative liaison assignments, she has continued the tradition of strengthening the relationships between Members of Congress and their staffs with the United States Army.

Ms. Mitchell's relentless commitment proved invaluable in providing support to the House of Representatives and our constituents. She has spent countless hours ensuring our Members were educated on Army combat systems, modernization programs and policy initiatives. She also managed and led multiple Congressional Delegations to various locations around the globe. Ms. Mitchell has become a trusted adviser and friend to many of us, distinguishing herself by continuously going above and beyond the call of duty to serve the needs of Congress.

This Chamber will feel Ms. Mitchell's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Mitchell for her outstanding leadership and unwavering support. This nation is grateful for her commitment and the personal sacrifices she has made during her time in the Army Legislative Liaison Office.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the United States of America, I commend Ms. Jodi Mitchell for her tireless dedication in support of our Army, our Soldiers and this Nation. I congratulate her on an extremely successful career, dedicated to service, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THOSE WHO FOUGHT  
THE HONDA CANYON FIRE

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2021*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I want to honor those who served diligently to combat the Honda Canyon Fire that occurred on Vandenberg Space Force Base, California on December 20, 1977 on its 44th Anniversary.

The Base, which at the time was known as Vandenberg Air Force Base, had strategic, scientific, and military significance to our military readiness and national security as the Western Space and Missile Center.

In persistently safeguarding the Base, four individuals lost their lives. These heroes include the Base Commander Col. Joseph G. Turner, the Base Fire Chief Billy J. Bell, the Base Assistant Fire Chief Eugene Cooper, and a heavy equipment operator, Clarence McCauley.

Furthermore, sixty-five active duty, government, civilian, and contract workers were injured when they were overrun by the Honda Canyon Fire.

Despite these losses, active duty, government, and contract workers—augmented with local civilian fire fighting forces—continued to battle the flames to prevent the loss of vital military equipment, launch facilities, communications sites, and satellite test facilities.

These personnel encountered an additional seven fire overruns of their personnel and equipment. They rescued injured and burned personnel, then regrouped to modify their tactics and strategies before heroically continuing to fight until the fire was subdued.

Following this tragic fire, military commanders assessed their losses and their response to the fire, prepared a comprehensive mishap report, convened a planning group, and prepared an Operation Plan to address the findings of the mishap report. They enhanced training, firefighting capabilities, and support roles for all base operations groups to help manage similar events in the future.

Unfortunately, the efforts of all those who fought the Honda Canyon Fire—whether active duty or civilian—have never been recognized.

I want to acknowledge the loyalty, integrity, and resourcefulness of the active duty, government civilian, and contract workers who assisted in fighting this fire. I ask all members of the House of Representatives to recognize them for service to their country and specifically for their efforts to quell the historic Honda Canyon Fire and protect critical infrastructure at the Base, which is located in the California's 24th Congressional District and is an asset to the community and integral to our national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2021*

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Nos. 406 through 435 on December 8, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Nos. 406 through 435.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2021*

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, Unfortunately, I did not participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 409, and YEA on Roll Call No. 417.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY RADIO

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Howard University Radio (WHUR) on its 50th anniversary.

After the Washington Post donated WTOP to Howard University, the rebranded WHUR debuted on December 10, 1971, with the mission of "Delivering Excellence In Broadcasting and Community Service."

In January 2004, WHUR was the first radio station in the District of Columbia metropolitan area to convert to digital broadcasting. In September 2016, the station was named "Urban Station of the Year" by the National Association of Broadcasters.

Today, WHUR broadcasts to nearly half a million listeners across five states and the District and is one of the few commercial radio stations in the United States that is owned and operated by an institution of higher education.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing WHUR for 50 years of providing culturally enriching content to the District of Columbia and the surrounding communities. I wish WHUR many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHANIE PORTA FOR HER CAREER AS A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2021*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, as a community organizer, Stephanie Porta served Central Florida for the past 18 years working to support low-income communities in their fight for equity. Through various strategies including